

**SIERRA – SAN JOAQUIN NOXIOUS WEED ALLIANCE**  
**Fresno, Madera, Mariposa Counties Weed Management Area**

**Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, February 13, 2002**

**Agenda Overview:**

1. Introductions
2. Minutes approval, agenda
3. Sierra Forest Resource Advisory Committee
4. HR 1462
5. Education/Outreach
6. SB 1740
7. GPS Workshop

**1. Attendees:** Peggy Moore, U.S. Geological Survey, Yosemite; Toby Horst, Sierra Resource Conservation District; Fred Rinder, Fresno County; Marty Acree, National Park Service, Yosemite; David Durham, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Mike Smith, Millerton Lake SRA, Terry Sandridge, Sierra Resource Conservation District and So. Cal. Edison; Shannon Sommer, Sierra National Forest; Kerry Eastman, San Joaquin River Parkway and Cons. Trust.

**2. Minutes/ Agenda Approval:** Minutes were approved by the committee for the January meeting with minor changes.

**3. Sierra Forest Resource Advisory Committee (RAC):** Toby Horst updated the committee on the workings of the newly-formed Fresno County RAC as it relates to the Payments to States legislation. Toby represents back-country horsemen on the RAC.

Overview: Through legislation, counties are given money to off-set the loss of timber funds to rural counties. Mariposa Co. has chosen to have its allotment go to the county for discretionary use (Marty will check with the Mariposa RCD to find out the funding situation for Payments to States in Mariposa Co.). Madera and Fresno counties chose the option to form a RAC with many different interests represented to consider and fund projects both on and off National Forest land. Toby thinks that \$180,000 is available through the Fresno RAC at this time. Projects may be submitted to the RAC for consideration. Nancy Fleenor (Forest Service, 559-855-5355, ext. 3350) is the contact person for the Fresno Co. RAC. To submit proposals, one must fill out a project request form. Toby will get a copy of this form and mail it to the WMA membership. The next meeting for the Fresno RAC is 2/19/02, 6:30 pm at the Sierra National Forest Supervisor's Office in Clovis.

Questions: The committee raised the following questions. Toby volunteered to research the answers.

- a. Is the funding based on reimbursement?
- b. Do all projects have to be on or adjacent to public land?
- c. Is there a lower/upper limit to apply for?
- d. May we only apply for 1-year projects?

**4. HR 1462:** No new updates. Peggy will email Doug Edwards for a template for letters of support.

**5. Education/Outreach:**

Brochure: Joanna emailed the membership a cost estimate of \$3,278.50 to print 5000 brochures. Currently we have \$1,800 from SB1740 and \$1,000 promised from Navelencia. Kelley NeVille previously expressed an interest in contributing money for the brochure. Kerry said that the San Joaquin River Parkway and Cons. Trust may be able to contribute, and David said that the Westside RCD might also be able to contribute. We are still waiting for a cost estimate of printing 10,000 brochures.

Toby has a new 2002 cost share agreement typed up for cooperative spray of yellow starthistle and medusahead in the Prather-Auberry-Tollhouse area. He will email a copy to the membership.

David called for discussion on what to base the fee for the medusahead cost-share program. They are looking at rates used by NRCS based on horsepower/hour. Treatment will be chemical, mechanical, and reseeding. Toby said they would not share the cost of hay for ranchers in the program to replace feed lost during the period of infestation and treatment.

Kerry asked the date of the home show, and if anyone was planning to do weed education there. Kerry will be making a scarlet wisteria brochure.

**6. SB 1740:** Fred informed the committee that the county does not have 1740 contracts or letters of promise at this time. Peggy will call Steve Schoenig to find out if he knows the likely timeline for the counties to get their contracts. Main 1740 funding and supplemental 1740 funding will have separate contracts. Contracts for main funding are to come out before supplemental funding contracts are provided.

Fresno Co. will be spraying the Coalinga Mineral Springs area – a 9-mile stretch and a county park. Fred has pictures from last year, and will take more pictures in May to show before and after contrast. Fresno Co. plans to start spraying the upper reaches of Dunlap Rd. from the road shoulder to the fence line. They have about 300 miles worth of funding for that. They plan to spray county roads in the Tollhouse area in April or earlier.

Plant names used above.

Common name: yellow starthistle  
medusahead  
scarlet wisteria

Scientific name: *Centaurea solstitialis*  
*Taeniatherum caput-medusae* ssp. *asperum*  
*Sesbania punicea*